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Chief Judge Ricardo Martinez

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

PERIENNE DE JARAY,

Plaintiff,

v.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA
FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
CANADIAN BORDER SERVICES
AGENCY, GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA
fka DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
TRADE CANADA, GEORGE WEBB,
KEVIN VARGA, and PATRICK LISKA,

Defendants.

NO. 2:16-cv-00571-RSM

**REPLY IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO
DISMISS COMPLAINT**

Noted on motion calendar:
Friday, October 21, 2016
(pursuant to Dkt. 14)

REPLY IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS'
MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT
NO. 2:16-CV-00571-RSM

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1 Plaintiff has not established that this Court has jurisdiction over any of the defendants,
2 or that this Court should retain this matter. This case should be dismissed.

3 **I. The Pleading Standards to Be Applied and the Evidence to Be Considered.**

4 Preliminarily, plaintiff has misidentified the standard to be applied to these motions.
5 The applicable standard was established in *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544
6 (2007), and refined in *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662 (2009), as follows:

7 To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter,
8 accepted as true, to “state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” A claim has
9 facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw
10 the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged. The
11 plausibility standard is not akin to a “probability requirement,” but it asks for more than
12 a sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully. Where a complaint pleads
13 facts that are “merely consistent with” a defendant’s liability, it “stops short of the line
14 between possibility and plausibility of ‘entitlement to relief.’”

15 *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678. The *Iqbal* Court explained that these rules were supported by two
16 “working principles.” *Id.* First, “the tenet that a court must accept as true all of the allegations
17 contained in a complaint is inapplicable to legal conclusions.” *Id.* Thus, for example, the
18 mere “assertion of an unlawful agreement” in an antitrust matter is a legal conclusion, and thus
19 “not entitled to the assumption of truth.”¹ Second, “only a complaint that states a plausible
20 claim for relief survives a motion to dismiss.”² A claim must be supported by specific facts³
21 that “nudge[] [the] claims” “across the line from conceivable to plausible.”⁴

22 Several of plaintiff’s allegations are conclusory, and are not entitled to any presumption
23 of truth. Also, elements of her claims are entirely implausible without factual support.

24 Plaintiff has also improperly submitted evidentiary materials that cannot be considered

25 ¹ *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 680 (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555).

26 ² *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 679.

³ The *Iqbal* Court found the following assertions to be too conclusory: (1) that two high level officials “knew of, condoned, and willfully and maliciously agreed to subject” the plaintiff to egregious conditions of confinement “as a matter of policy, solely on account of [his] religion, race, and/or national origin and for no legitimate penological interest;” (2) that one official was “the principal architect” of the discriminatory policy, and (3) that another official was “instrumental” in accepting and implementing it. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 680-681.

⁴ *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 680.

here. In deciding a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court generally looks only to the face of the complaint and documents attached thereto.⁵ The only materials the court may consider are “documents attached to the complaint, documents incorporated by reference in the complaint, [and] matters of judicial notice.”⁶ The court “typically cannot consider evidence beyond the four corners of the complaint. . . .”⁷ Defendants thus object to consideration of materials outside the complaint, including the declarations filed at Dkt. 32 through 36, inclusive.

II. The FSIA Issues

A. Plaintiff Bears the Burden of Offering Facts Establishing Jurisdiction.

Plaintiff misidentifies the burden she bears on this motion:

Section 1604 [of FSIA] creates a “statutory presumption that a foreign state is immune from suit.” To trigger this presumption, the defendant must make a prima facie case that it is a foreign state. The presumption also applies if it is apparent from the pleadings or uncontested that the defendant is a foreign state, as in this case. . . . Once the court has determined that the defendant is a foreign state, “the burden of production shifts to the plaintiff to offer evidence that an exception applies.” If the plaintiff satisfies her burden of production, jurisdiction exists unless the defendant demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the claimed exception does not apply.

Peterson v. Islamic Republic of Iran, 627 F.3d 1117, 1124-1125 (9th Cir. 2010) (internal citations omitted, emphasis added). “[FSIA’s] burden-shifting scheme . . . puts most of the weight on the plaintiff” in part because “federal jurisdiction does not exist unless one of the exceptions to immunity from suit applies.” *Id.*, at 1125.

Here, as in *Peterson*, it is uncontested that the entity defendants are foreign states under FSIA, and there is a “statutory presumption” that defendants are immune from suit. Plaintiff thus must offer specific facts to establish that a FSIA exception applies. She has not done so.

B. The Commercial Exception to FSIA Does Not Apply Here.

Plaintiff argues that her claims fall within FSIA’s “commercial exception,” which

⁵ *Van Buskirk v. Cable News Network, Inc.*, 284 F.3d 977, 980 (9th Cir. 2002).

⁶ *United States v. Ritchie*, 342 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir. 2003).

⁷ *Hummel v. Nw. Tr. Servs., Inc.*, No. C15-255RAJ, 2016 WL 3093255, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 23, 2016).

provides that a foreign state is not immune from suit in cases involving actions “based upon” or “in connection with” a commercial activity of a foreign state. 28 U.S.C. § 1605(a)(2). Plaintiff has not alleged any commercial activity that is arguably adequate to carry her burden under FSIA. Plaintiff’s complaint is based on defendants’ “harassing and intimidating [her] and her employees and customers,”⁸ and defendants’ investigation of plaintiff and her company and use of U.S. law enforcement in that effort.⁹ Investigating potential crimes, contacting witnesses, and prosecuting offenders are not commercial acts, but “emanate from the power inherent in sovereignty.”¹⁰ Further, FSIA provides that the actionable “commercial activity” must be the specific course of conduct or act at issue in the case, and not the purpose of the act or conduct. 28 U.S.C. § 1603(d). Plaintiff’s sole argument is that defendants acted “in order to win favor with the U.S. and secure the defense contracts.” This is statutorily irrelevant “motive or purpose” underlying the acts, and not any actual commercial activity of any sort.

C. Defendants Have Not Waived Their FSIA Immunity.

Plaintiff next argues that defendants impliedly waived their immunity under one of two treaties,¹¹ but there is no treaty-based waiver here factually or legally. “The FSIA’s waiver exception is ‘narrowly construed.’”¹² When considering whether a sovereign has waived its FSIA immunity, “the essential inquiry . . . is whether a sovereign contemplated the involvement of United States courts in the affair at issue.”¹³ Illustrative is *Argentine Republic v. Amerada Hess Shipping Corp.*, 488 U.S. 428 (1989), where two Liberian companies sued the Argentine Republic for bombing their vessel during the Falkland Islands conflict. Like plaintiff

⁸ Opp., p. 15.

⁹ Opp., p. 15.

¹⁰ *BP Chemicals Ltd. v. Jiangsui Sopo Corp.*, 285 F.3d 677, 681 (8th Cir. 2002). See also *Saudi Arabia v. Nelson*, 507 U.S. 349, 361-62 (1993) (“a foreign state’s exercise of the power of its police has long been understood . . . as peculiarly sovereign in nature. . . . Exercise of the powers of police and penal officers is not the sort of action by which private parties can engage in commerce.”).

¹¹ The Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, June 3, 2002, 42 I.L.M. 19 (“IACT”), and the Treaty Between the Government of Canada and the United States of America on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, March 18, 1985, C.T.S. 1990 No. 19 (“MLAT”).

¹² *Siderman de Blake v. Republic of Argentina*, 965 F.2d 699, 720 (9th Cir. 1992).

¹³ *Id.* at 721.

here, the companies argued that two international conventions waived the Argentine government's immunity under 28 U.S.C. § 1605(a)(1). The Court rejected that argument because neither convention mentioned a waiver of immunity or any cause of action in the U.S.:

Nor do we see how a foreign state can waive its immunity under §1605(a)(1) by signing an international agreement that contains no mention of a waiver of immunity to suit in United States courts or even the availability of a cause of action in the United States.

488 U.S. at 442-443.¹⁴

Here, plaintiff argues the purported "waiver" is in the IACT's provision that "fair treatment" includes "conformity with the law of the state in the territory of which that person is present." IACT contains no mention of any country waiving its immunity to suit; no mention of any cause of action in the U.S.; and no reference to any involvement of U.S. courts. Plaintiff has not facially meet the applicable test for treaty waiver. And IACT is irrelevant given the lack of any specific allegation that IACT was actually involved in the investigation.

Even if IACT were relevant, when properly interpreted, IACT contemplates that FSIA is part of U.S. law applicable here. Plaintiffs in *Amerada Hess* argued that a FSIA waiver was created by a treaty between Liberia and the U.S. which provided plaintiffs "with freedom of access to the courts of justice of the other conforming to the local laws." *Amerada Hess*, 488 U.S. at 443. The Supreme Court interpreted that language not to create a FSIA waiver, but instead to confirm that FSIA remains applicable to cases in U.S. courts invoking the treaty:

Article I of [the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the U.S. and Liberia] provides, in pertinent part, that the nationals of the United States and Liberia "shall enjoy freedom of access to the courts of justice of the other on conforming to the local laws." The FSIA is clearly one of the "local laws" to which respondents must "conform" before bringing suit in United States courts.

¹⁴ Many courts have reached the same conclusion regarding other treaties. *See, e.g., Frolova v. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*, 761 F.2d 370, 377-78 (7th Cir. 1985) (Soviet Union did not waive immunity by signing United Nations Charter and Helsinki Accords); *Anderman v. Fed. Republic of Austria*, 256 F. Supp. 2d 1098, 1106 (C.D. Cal. 2003) (Austria did not waive immunity in State Treaty for Re-Establishment of an Independent and Democratic Austria); *Greenpeace, Inc. (U.S.A.) v. State of France*, 946 F. Supp. 773, 781 (C.D. Cal. 1996) (France did not waive immunity under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea).

1 *Id.* Here, IACT uses the same wording – “conformity with” the laws of the United States –
 2 when describing the obligations of contracting states. Thus, in any IACT-related case, U.S.
 3 courts are required to apply FSIA to act in “conformity with the law of the state in the territory
 4 of which that person is present.”

5 The only case cited by plaintiff establishing any type of waiver is *Siderman*.¹⁵ That is
 6 not a treaty case, but arose from the government of Argentina invoking the assistance of U.S.
 7 courts (via letters rogatory) to serve papers on the plaintiff.¹⁶ In *Blaxland v. Commonwealth*
 8 *Dir. of Pub. Prosecutions*, the Ninth Circuit limited *Siderman* to situations in which foreign
 9 sovereigns use domestic U.S. courts and thereby subject themselves to the jurisdiction of the
 10 U.S. legal system.¹⁷ The *Blaxland* court did not find any waiver where the Australian
 11 government had requested and obtained extradition of the plaintiff, because extradition was
 12 conducted by the executive branch of government, and not the courts.¹⁸ Plaintiff has not
 13 identified any specific facts showing action by the judicial branch that could create a waiver by
 14 Canada. Indeed, she concedes that it is “unknown” if U.S. courts were involved in this
 15 matter.¹⁹ This does not meet her pleading burden to show specific facts establishing waiver.²⁰

16 D. The Discretionary Conduct Exemption Bars this Matter.

17 Plaintiff argues that the actions of Canadian law enforcement personnel to investigate
 18 and prosecute a crime do not involve any element of judgment or choice. She is incorrect.

19 First, citing a number of FTCA cases, plaintiff asserts that acts that “violate the law” are

20
 21 ¹⁵ *Siderman*, 965 F.2d 699.

22 ¹⁶ Plaintiff claims a waiver “may have” occurred under MLAT, Opp., p. 13, but she is several steps removed from
 23 showing that Canada waived its immunity by involving a U.S. court under MLAT. First, plaintiff has no specific
 24 evidence of any request for assistance under that treaty. Plaintiff says she “has evidence” that Canadian officials
 “made a request” under MLAT, but the document she cites actually indicates the opposite – that no request was
 made under the treaty. See De Jaray Decl., Exh. 1 (Dkt.33-1) (stating that company at issue – “Lattice” – “was
 asked voluntarily to provide documents and they did.”). Second, even if MLAT assistance was requested, there is
 no proof of any involvement of any Court in aid of that request. Plaintiff relies on speculation, not plausibility.

25 ¹⁷ 323 F.3d 1198, 1206 (9th Cir. 2003).

26 ¹⁸ *Id.* at 1206-08.

¹⁹ Opp., p. 13.

²⁰ Plaintiff also cites cases involving contract-based waivers, but identifies no relevant contract.

“outside” the discretionary conduct exemption,²¹ and claims that the acts of Canadian representatives were crimes under U.S. federal and Washington state law.²² This argument was rejected in *Risk v. Halvorsen*, 936 F.2d 393 (9th Cir. 1991). The plaintiff in that case argued that the Norwegian defendants committed crimes under California law, and thus could not invoke the discretionary function exception. The Ninth Circuit disagreed:

In this case, the most that can be said is that Norwegian officials issued travel documents to a Norwegian citizen and her children, also citizens of Norway; that they provided funds for her travel; and that they protected her from contact by her former husband. Although these acts may constitute a crime under California law, it cannot be said that every conceivably illegal act is outside the scope of the discretionary function exception.

The district court correctly held that the discretionary function exception to the FSIA applies in this case and that it has no jurisdiction to hear the claims against Norway. 936 F.2d at 396-97 (internal citation omitted). Plaintiff cites no FSIA case in which the discretionary function exception was denied because of alleged illegality under local law of the actions of the sovereign involved.

Plaintiff next argues that the actions of Canadian actors were not discretionary because of an alleged “mandate” to “take aggressive action” and an alleged “directive” to “shut down” plaintiff’s company. Plaintiff’s position is that as a result, each of the actions taken here – everything said in each interview, every element of any contact with an employee or witness or customer – involved no element of choice, judgment, or discretion. But plaintiff pleads no specific facts that prove that government actor were “required” to act as they did, and it is implausible to assume they were. The analysis of the Ninth Circuit in *In re Glacier Bay* is instructive as to the type of proof that is required.²³ Similarly, in *O’Bryan v. Holy See*, 471 F. Supp.2d 784, 794-94 (W.D. Ky. 2007), the plaintiffs alleged the defendant had a policy

²¹ Opp., pp. 5-6.

²² Opp., p. 6, notes 25, 26, and 27 (citing various USC and RCW criminal provisions).

²³ 71 F.3d 1447 (9th Cir. 1995). The Court there examined numerous NOAA manuals and instructions, distinguishing those which created mandatory processes (and used the term “shall”) from those which provided discretion (using “should”). Plaintiff has no such evidence to judge the discretion of defendants.

specifically proscribing any warnings to parishioners of suspected pedophiles, as well as a policy forbidding reporting of suspected abuse to appropriate authorities. Such mandatory, specific policies removed any discretion from those who followed them. Plaintiff offers no specific allegation plausibly establishing any such mandatory, specific policy here.

E. The Misrepresentation/Deceit, Malicious Prosecution, and Abuse of Process Exemption Each Bar this Action.

Plaintiff also largely ignores FSIA cases in considering the exemption provided by § 1605(a)(5)(B), instead citing exclusively FTCA cases. That exemption eliminates jurisdiction over any claims “arising out of malicious prosecution, abuse of process, libel, slander, misrepresentation, deceit, or interference with contract rights.” In evaluating plaintiff’s claims, this Court should ignore efforts to “plead around the proviso” and should “look beyond [the complaint’s] characterization to the conduct on which the claim is based.”²⁴

Every aspect of the Complaint states claims that “arise from” malicious prosecution, abuse of process, libel, slander, misrepresentation, and/or deceit. The Complaint alleges that Canadian officials supposedly falsified facts about the Seized Goods (deceit and misrepresentation); used that falsified information to conduct a criminal investigation (deceit and malicious prosecution); misled U.S. officials about the facts, thereby inducing them to participate in the investigation (deceit and misrepresentation); improperly indicted plaintiff (malicious prosecution) based on the same falsehood (deceit and misrepresentation); publicized the indictment, harming plaintiff’s reputation (slander); threatened interviewees with criminal charges if they did not cooperate (abuse of process); and misled her company’s customers, banks and employees by linking her to “terrorism” or “terroristic activity” and “arms dealing” (deceit and misrepresentation).

Plaintiff halfheartedly attempts to recast her claims, but repeatedly admits that her claims all rest on the alleged deceit of the defendants. She tries to describe her claims as being

²⁴ *Blaxland*, 323 F.3d at 1203.

1 based on “harassment and intimidation in the U.S.,” but acknowledges this was achieved by
 2 “unlawful manipulation of U.S. authorities and intimidation of witnesses and Plaintiff on U.S.
 3 soil” by means of false suggestions to “witnesses in the United States” that “Plaintiff was
 4 involved in arms dealing and counter-proliferation [sic].”²⁵ The coda to her own description of
 5 her claim is that “[a]ll the while, the information provided by Defendants to the FBI and U.S.
 6 authorities was false, and the Defendants knew it was false.”²⁶ All four of plaintiff’s causes of
 7 action specifically rely on allegations of “falsified” or “false” information.²⁷ This is quite
 8 simply a case “arising from” alleged misrepresentation and deceit.

9 This case is on all fours with *Blaxland*, and plaintiff’s failure to address that case in any
 10 detail is telling. Blaxland’s complaint was that Australian officials “made false or misleading
 11 statements in affidavits submitted by the U.S. Attorney to secure Blaxland’s arrest and
 12 extradition,” all in an attempt to claim a political victory. *Blaxland*, 323 F.3d at 1202. The
 13 Ninth Circuit dismissed not only Blaxland’s claims for malicious prosecution and abuse of
 14 process, but also his claims for intentional infliction of emotional distress and false
 15 imprisonment because they “arose from” those same activities. *Id.* at 1203. Here, plaintiff’s
 16 complaint is for the same types of false statements.

17 **III. There Is No Jurisdiction Over the Individual Defendants.**

18 **A. The Individual Defendants are Immune for Their Official Acts.**

19 Plaintiff addresses the dispositive issue of official acts immunity in two paragraphs,²⁸
 20 and supports that opposition with no facts. She essentially concedes the motion.

21 First, plaintiff baldly asserts “there is a question of fact” as to whether the individual
 22 defendants were “acting outside their authority.” But plaintiff does not even support that
 23 assertion with any citation to her complaint, in which she has not alleged any specific instance

24 ²⁵ Opp., p. 22.

25 ²⁶ *Id.*

26 ²⁷ Complaint, ¶¶ 147 (“falsified” and “false” information); 154 (same); 161 (same); 168 (same).

²⁸ Opp., pp. 18-19.

or manner in which any of the individual defendants acted outside their official capacity. Indeed, her position is entirely incompatible with her allegations that the defendants acted to implement mandatory government policies and to achieve governmental goals.

Secondly, plaintiff argues that official acts immunity does not apply to violations of *jus cogens*. *Jus cogens* norms are certain fundamental, overriding principles of international law, from which no derogation is permitted.²⁹ “Torture and summary executions are considered violations of *jus cogens* norms.”³⁰ The Ninth Circuit has not adopted a *jus cogens* exception to the official acts immunity doctrine, and the Second Circuit,³¹ courts in this Circuit,³² and the U.S. Executive³³ have all rejected any such exception.³⁴ But this Court need not decide the issue, because plaintiff has not even argued that she has alleged adequate facts to support a *jus cogens* violation, stating only that defendants “acted in violation of international law.”³⁵ Without facts or law to support the exception, it is simply not even potentially applicable here.

B. There is No Viable ATS Claim.

Plaintiff limits her ATS claim to a claimed right to “safe conduct,” which she first

²⁹ “A *jus cogens* norm, also known as a ‘peremptory norm of general international law,’ can be defined as ‘a norm accepted and recognized by the international community of States as a whole as a norm from which no derogation is permitted and which can be modified only by a subsequent norm of general international law having the same character.’” *Yousuf v. Samantar*, 699 F.3d 763, 775 (4th Cir. 2012).

³⁰ *Dogan v. Barak*, No. 215CV08130ODWGSJX, 2016 WL 6024416 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 13, 2016), at *10, n. 18.

³¹ *Matar v. Dichter*, 563 F.3d 9, 15 (2d Cir. 2009).

³² Last week, Judge Wright of the Central District of California dismissed a lawsuit based on the common law official immunity of Ehud Barak, the former Israeli Defense Minister and Prime Minister, who was sued on claims arising from Israeli military forces’ use of lethal force against an American citizen aboard a vessel attempting to deliver humanitarian assistance and supplies to Gaza. *Dogan*, 2016 WL 6024416. Judge Wright rejected the argument that there was a *jus cogens* exception to the official immunity rule, noting that such an exception “would effectively eviscerate the immunity for *all* foreign officials. The question whether there was actually a *jus cogens* violation is inextricably intertwined with the merits of the underlying claim; thus, having a *jus cogens* exception would merge the merits inquiry with the immunity inquiry. . . . There w[ould] effectively be no immunity.” *Id.* at *10. Further, because the U.S. government has “made clear it does not recognize a *jus cogens* exception to immunity,” and “[b]ecause the common law immunity inquiry centers on what conduct the *Executive* has seen fit to immunize, [*Republic of Mexico v.*] *Hoffman*, 324 U.S. [30] at 36 [(1945)], courts are not free to carve out such an exception on their own.” *Id.*

³³ *Dogan*, at *10.

³⁴ The Fourth Circuit recognized the exception in a case alleging torture, where the defendant was “a former official of a state with no currently recognized government to request immunity on his behalf or to take a position on whether the acts in question were taken in an official capacity.” *Yousuf*, 699 F.3d at 777.

³⁵ *Opp.*, p. 19.

1 asserts arises due to her “[m]ere lawful presence” as an alien in the U.S.³⁶ That proposition is
 2 inconsistent with any judicial understanding of the international law of safe conduct or the
 3 breadth of the ATS. *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain* cautions that courts are to consider “practical
 4 consequences” when determining whether to recognize a cause of action under the ATS,³⁷ and
 5 to use “great caution in adapting the law of nations to private rights.”³⁸ If an alien could sue
 6 under the ATS for any type of interference with the alien’s presence in the U.S., the federal
 7 courts would be flooded with claims of alleged violations by public and private defendants.

8 Plaintiff next relies on *Tavaras v. Taveraz*, a Sixth Circuit case in which the plaintiff
 9 attempted to state an ATS claim based on his ex-wife’s allegedly fraudulent act of entering the
 10 U.S. under a visitor’s visa when she intended to permanently immigrate.³⁹ The Sixth Circuit
 11 found no ATS jurisdiction, because nothing tied the wrongful conduct to any “direct violation
 12 of the law of nations.” In *dicta*, the Sixth Circuit laid out portions of the description of safe
 13 conducts contained in William Blackstone’s 18th century *Commentaries*. In doing so, the
 14 *Tavaras* Court did not consider current customary international law, nor did it assess how the
 15 *Sosa* criteria would apply to an ATS claim based on modern visa practice.

16 Under *Sosa*, any ATS claim must be based on “a contemporary international legal norm
 17 [which] is ‘specific, universal, and obligatory.’”⁴⁰ *Sosa* emphasized:

18 “The prevailing conception of the common law has changed since 1789 in a way that
 19 counsels restraint in judicially applying internationally generated norms.”⁴¹

20 “A decision to create a private right of action is one better left to legislative judgment in
 21 the great majority of cases.”⁴²

22 “We have no congressional mandate to seek out and define new and debatable

23 ³⁶ Opp., p. 16. Plaintiff cites *Johnson v. Eisentrager*, 339 U.S. 763 (1950), which did not involve international law
 24 principles, U.S. visas, or the ATS, but instead ruled that enemy aliens prosecuted abroad for war crimes did not
 25 have habeas rights.

³⁷ *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*, 542 U.S. 692, 732 (2004).

³⁸ *Sosa*, 542 U.S. at 728.

³⁹ 477 F.3d 767, 772 (6th Cir. 2007).

⁴⁰ *Doe I v. Nestle USA, Inc.*, 766 F.3d 1013, 1019 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing *Sosa*, 542 U.S. at 732) (emphasis added).

⁴¹ *Sosa*, 542 U.S. at 725.

⁴² *Id.* at 727.

violations of the law of nations. . . .⁴³

As defendants described in their Motion to Dismiss, there is no proof of any 21st century consensus among nations that visas constitute safe conducts; that rights and duties relating to visas are defined in any universal fashion under international law; or which actions interfering with visa rights violate international law. *Sosa* requires definite agreement and universal acceptance of the international community on these points before any claim lies under the ATS.

And factually, just in *Tavaras*, plaintiff does not link up her lost visa to any act of defendants. She never provides any specific fact that establishes it is plausible, rather than possible, that she lost her L1A visa due to actions of the defendants. Her allegations are entirely conclusory in that regard, and are of the type the Court rejected in *Iqbal*.

IV. Act of State

The Act of State doctrine is a mandatory rule of law that bars adjudication of this case. The focus of the doctrine is avoiding judicial inquiry into the acts and conduct of foreign officials, even where those acts have strong, direct effects in the U.S. Thus, the Act of State doctrine has been invoked to dismiss a claim involving shipments between Columbia and the United States when such shipments were regulated by Columbian law;⁴⁴ and to dismiss claims against vitamin suppliers who fixed prices in the U.S. because of direction by Chinese officials.⁴⁵ Plaintiff's claims would require this Court to review the validity of official acts of the Canadian Government performed within its territory, including the conduct and underlying motives of Canadian officials relating to the enforcement of Canadian export control rules. There is no rule, and plaintiff cites no authority, that any alleged Canadian activity in the United States bars application of the act of state doctrine. Here, plaintiff does not dispute that any resolution of her claims would necessarily involve forbidden judicial inquiry into the acts

⁴³ *Id.* at 728.

⁴⁴ *O.N.E. Shipping Ltd. v. Flota Mercante Grancolumbia, S.A.*, 830 F.2d 449, 450 (2d Cir. 1987).

⁴⁵ *In re Vitamin C Antitrust Litigation*, No. 13-4791-cv, 2016 WL 5017312, *11 (2d Cir. Sept. 20, 2016).

1 and conduct of officials of a foreign state, its affairs and policies in Canada, and the underlying
2 reasons and motivations for the actions of the foreign government.

3 **V. Comity**

4 Plaintiff agrees that *Mujica v. Airscan, Inc.*⁴⁶ identifies the Ninth Circuit requirements
5 for application of international comity. Under *Mujica*, the Court balances seven factors, both in
6 cases of adjudicatory and prescriptive comity. The adequacy of the foreign forum is only one of
7 seven factors. No pending case or future remedy in Canada is required. In *Mujica*, it was agreed
8 that Columbian law precluded recovery against the defendants, but the state claims were
9 dismissed because the balance of factors supported the application of comity. Plaintiff does not
10 acknowledge the alleged activity of defendants which largely occurred abroad (the first *Mujica*
11 factor); the Canadian citizenship of all the parties (the second *Mujica* factor); the nature of the
12 conduct as involving “core prerogatives of the sovereign” (the third *Mujica* factor); the foreign
13 policy interests of the U.S. (the fourth *Mujica* factor); U.S. public policy interests (the fifth
14 *Mujica* factor – none identified by plaintiff); and that “[f]oreign states, no less than the United
15 States, have legitimate interests in regulating conduct that occurs within their borders, involves
16 their nationals, impacts their public and foreign policies, and implicates universal norms” (the
17 sixth *Mujica* factor). All of these factors weigh toward application of adjudicative comity in
18 this matter.

19 **VI. Forum non conveniens**

20 Defendants withdraw their motion to dismiss based on forum non conveniens.

21 **VII. Conclusion**

22 Plaintiff has not carried her the burden of establishing jurisdiction in this matter. There
23 is no FSIA or ATS jurisdiction, and the individual defendants are immune for their official acts.
24 Defendants request dismissal of this action.

25
26 ⁴⁶ 771 F.3d 580 (9th Cir. 2014).

1 DATED this 21st day of October, 2016.

2 GARVEY SCHUBERT BARER

3 By /s/David R. West

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18 Patrick Liska

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 21, 2016, I electronically filed the REPLY IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT on behalf of Defendants Attorney General of Canada for Her Majesty The Queen, Canadian Border Services Agency, Global Affairs Canada fka Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, George Webb, Kevin Varga, and Patrick Liska with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to:

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DATED this 21st day of October, 2016.

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REPLY IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS'
MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT - 14
NO. 2:16-CV-00571-RSM

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